TOPIC: TRAVEL

Sample answers, useful vocabulary and resources for IELTS speaking exam

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1. SAMPLE ANSWERS

PART 1

1. **Do you like to travel?**
   - Yes, I do. I am keen on broading my horizons and there is nothing that helps to do it more comprehensively than travelling.
2. **What kind of places have you visited in your life?**
   - Sadly, I didn't get to see many destinations inside and outside of my native country. I have traveled a bit in the South of Russia and went to see parts of Switzerland, Italy, France, Ukraine, Serbia, Belarus and Germany.

3.Which place would you really like to visit? Why?

- I had first thought about this when I was in middle school, much before I first left Russia. I remember seeing Machu-Pikchu in one of our books about nature and falling in love with it. Since then, I have always wanted to go to Peru and this old Inks city.

4. **What's the best place you've ever visited?**

- The city that has really astonished me with its beautiful architecture and history was Paris. This is not only the capital of culture, economics and education, but also the place full of vivid art and romance.

5. **How do you prefer to travel on long journeys?**

- When it takes a lot of time to get to a destination, I definitely prefer to travel by a sleeping train. These are trains with comfortable beds where it's possible to relax and recharge before reaching new places.

PART 2

Describe an interesting journey you have been on. You should say:

- **where you went**
- **how you travelled there**
- **who you went with**

and explain what was so memorable about the journey

One of my favourite trips is the one I did in March to Paris. There is a peculiar thing about me - I don't like travelling without a clear purpose. I would rather go to a conference abroad than just **fly to another country** with no purpose other than **wandering streets**. So, this is exactly what happened on my journey to France. I was invited to attend a 3-days workshop on corporate mergers and acquisitions with BCG that stands for Boston Consulting Group.

The hosting company paid all my expenses including **a round flight to** Paris, however I had a hard time receiving a **visa**, so I had to reschedule initial **itineraries**. After I finally landed in the French capital, a **transfer driver** picked me up and drove to a chateau, which turned out to be a beautiful countryside hotel set up in an old mansion.

There was not only me, but also 50 other young people - students from the best European universities. The acceptance rate to this annual event is only 4%, so I felt very privileged to be there. I have not only made friends from all over the world, but also solved a real-life business case where we had to value and sell a company, presenting the strategy to the management board afterwards. And the best final part of the event was a **sight-seeing trip** around Paris, where I admired the Eiffel Tower, the Notre Dame de Paris, and many other breathtaking cathedrals and palaces that France is so famous for.

PART 3

1. **Which method of travel do you consider safest?**

Well, in my opinion, travelling by train is **the safest**. So far, it has been **the means of transportation** that is the least prone to **accidents**. Since it runs along its own **railway**, it is not very likely for two trains to **crash**. I reckon, most accidents that happen with trains are due to mechanical or technical issues which could be avoided if the system is **checked and monitored** properly.

2. **Has travel become safer in recent years?**

Yes, I believe so. The modern technological progress allows for constant improvement of **transportation quality,** especially because the demand for journeys is rising. This is due to the ability to use **enhanced materials** that can endure higher loads and tougher **exploitation conditions**. Another breakthrough is the Artificial Intelligence solutions that make transport more reliable - it is able to predict accidents, crashes and break-downs.

3. **What are the pros and cons of low-cost air travel?**

Low-cost air travel allows people with budget constraints to **cover long distances** in short periods of time. However, when travelling on board of low-costers one should remember that they trade their comfort for cheap tickets. Usually, **meals and baggage fees** are not included into initial price. Planes might be old and seats **may not be that comfortable**. There is also a possibility of **poor customer service on board.**

2. KEY VOCABULARY

TRAVEL – BY AIR

an airport	a place aircraft flights run to and from	Every city that starts quick growth needs a proper **airport**.
to take off	the action of becoming airborne	The plane that is about to **take off** from Nice heads to London.
a plane	an airplane	All **planes** of our airline are properly checked every week.
to land	come down through the air and alight on the ground	The plane **landed** safely with the only remaining engine.
low-cost air travel	travel via an airline that generally offers lower fares and fewer comforts	Bradford International Airport is served by many operators including **low-cost airlines.**
check-in	the place where travellers report to on arrival at the airport	It is possible to **check-in** on your own if you travel with a carry-on.
a carry-on	a small suitcase that is carried on board of planes	I try to go on business trips with **a carry-on** only.

TRAVEL – SEA/ OCEAN

a voyage	a long journey usually involving travel by sea	Tasman made several **voyages** to the Far East.
a ship	a large boat that carries passengers or goods by sea	The wooden **ship** took fifteen days to arrive to America.
to sail	to travel in a boat with sails, especially as a sport or recreation	There are many lakes and rivers where you may fish, canoe or **sail.**
a sailboat	a boat propelled by sails	I have a 30-foot cruising **sailboat.**
a port	a town or city with a harbor where ships load or unload	Because our town is a **port**, and because it has two rivers, there are often many people from other countries here.
a ferry	a boat or ship for conveying passengers and goods, especially over a relatively short distance and as a regular service	We caught the overnight **ferry** from Belfast to Birkenhead.
a cruise-ship	a passenger ship used for pleasure voyages	The distinction between ocean liners and **cruise ships** has blurred over years.
a boat	a small vessel propelled on water by oars, sails, or an engine	There is also **boats** available for hire.

TRAVEL – BY LAND

a subway	an underground railway system	The New York City's **subway** system is one of the world's largest.
an underground	an underground railway system	The Moscow's **underground** is like a moving public thoroughfare.
the tube	the underground system in London	The house is located in a quiet residential area close to the **tube**.
a train	a series of connected railway vehicles pulled by a locomotive	London is 80 minutes away by shuttle service, with **trains** every 30 minutes.
traffic	vehicles moving on roads	Summer holidays often mean hours stuck in **traffic** in a hot car.
a road	a path for vehicles to drive on	Follow the **road** down to Clanbrassil Street.
a railway	a track made of parallel bars on which trains run	Probably the most famous landmark along the **railway** is Ribblehead Viaduct with its 24 arches**.**

TRAVEL – VACATION

a hike	a walk outdoors for pleasure	Take a **hike** on some of these tracks.
a camp	a place with tents or other shelters for people holidaying or travelling	The tour involves staying in **camps** in the mountains.

a vacation	a period of time away from work, especially in which one travels; holiday	We found that people were taking fewer **vacations** and spending more time in one destination**.**
a trip	a journey or visit somewhere	My wife Jen and I visited Borneo in March 2004, as a part of a longer **trip** including visits to Thailand and Nepal.
a travel agent	the person working in company that provides travel and tourism related services to the public	Travelers really need **travel agents** to arrange complex trips.
a travel	the action of traveling, typically abroad	International **travel** was catastrophically affected by the September 11th attacks on New York.
a tourist	a person who is traveling or visiting a place for pleasure	Many areas have important natural features which serve to attract tourists.
a tour	a visit around a place or several places, usually for the purpose of pleasure/tourism	It is more common to see elderly going on **tours** as a main retirement activity.
a suitcase	a case with a handle and a hinged lid, used for carrying clothes and other personal possessions	She has a whole **suitcase** of shoes**.**
sightseeing	the activity of visiting places of interest as a tourist	The group members took us **sightseeing** in the Yellowstone National Park.
a route	a way or course taken in getting from a starting point to a destination	The driver must take you to your destination following the shortest possible **route.**

a passenger	somebody who travels in a vehicle, aircraft, train, or vessel but is not the driver or a member of its crew	Railway **passengers** in Germany have to deal with unreliable timetables.
a motel	a roadside hotel designed primarily for motorists	We found a nice **motel** on the other side of Mississippi.
luggage	suitcases and bags used when travelling	He has no **luggage**, no passport, just the clothes on his back.
a journey	a trip from one place to another	How long is the train **journey** ?
a hotel	an establishment providing accommodations, meals, and other services for travelers and tourists	We will make all your **hotel** bookings and arrange the tour for you.
a hostel	cheap hotel	It is widely known the fact that **hostels** are cheaper than hotels.
to book	to make a reservation or registration	During the course of one week four hundred guests were **booked** into a hotel.
an excursion	an organized trip, often one that is part of a holiday a leisure activity	During the trip the pupils will go on several **excursions.**
a destination	the place where someone or something is going	It took us five days to reach our **destination**, Ban Pong, 30 miles north of Bangkok.
to go abroad	to visit a foreign country or countries	Many youngsters dream to **go abroad.**
a ticket	a piece of paper or small card that gives the holder a certain right, especially to enter a place, travel by public transport, or participate in an event	There is no booking fee when you buy **tickets** in person at galleries.

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a guide	a person who shows others the way	He began his journey to the ruin of ancient Loulan City, accompanied by five cameramen and two local **guides**.
locals	a person who lives in the surrounding area	Talking with **locals** is a great way of really getting to know a new place.
countryside	the land and scenery of a rural area	In the Chinese **countryside** nobody seems to know where anything is.
scuba diving	the sport or pastime of swimming underwater using scuba gear	Stav and I are off to Sharm to **go scuba diving** and lounging around in the sun.
to get lost	unable to find one's way; not knowing one's whereabout	Touring motorcyclists are not supposed **to get lost.**

TRAVEL – ADJECTIVES

adventure activities	all activities that happen during an exiting trip	I will never forget **incredible adventure activities** we experienced during the trip.
indigenous peoples	first peoples, aboriginal, native peoples, occurring naturally in a particular place	New Zealand recognises its **indigenous peoples** in its constitution.
dangerous places	hazardous places, likely to cause harm	**I**t's a good idea to know how to behave and what not to do when traveling to **dangerous places**.
tropical islands	Islands with extremely hot climate, situated in the regions of the world that lie between the tropics	Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest reef covered with hundreds of unique **tropical islands.**

exciting	causing one to feel great enthusiasm and eagerness	Nottingham is a vibrant and **exciting** city, recently voted the third best shopping city in the UK.
fantastic	extraordinarily good or attractive	Head all the way to the top for a **fantastic** view of the city.
foreign	from, in, characteristic of or of another country	He has a slightly **foreign** accent to his language.
overseas	from, to, or relating to a foreign country, especially one across the sea	Earnings from **overseas** visitors contributed more than £ 3 billion to the economy.
memorable	noteworthy or pleasurable and therefore likely to be remembered	At any time of year, a visit to Durlston is a **memorable** experience.
cross-country	across a region or country	**Cross-country** travels allow you to see the beauty of this country.
tiring	making one feel tired	It has been a **tiring** journey, and I shall sleep well tonight.
pleasant	giving a sense of happy satisfaction or enjoyment	In the afternoon we took a walk - just long enough to feel **pleasant** tiredness.

3.WORD FORMATION

a check-in	noun	Don't forget that a self **check-in** is available to you.
to check-in	verb	You can now **check-in** online via the airline website.
a hike	noun	Take a **hike** on some of these tracks.
hiking	gerund	I am a teacher in a local high school and my hobbies include **hiking** and photography.
to travel	verb	As you **travel** the mountain roads look out for the monuments of 1944.
travel	noun	International **travel** was catastrophically affected by the September 11th attacks on New York.
safety	noun	When travelling near crocodile habitats, observe **safety** signs and don't swim in rivers.
safe	adjective	Australians experience a **safe** lifestyle.

4.COLLOCATIONS AND PHRASES

verb+by+

ship

to come by
to go by
to travel by
It's two hours by

verb+

train

take
travel by
catch
get
miss
wait for
run for
board
get on
hop on
jump aboard/on
get of

catch
get
take
miss
board,
get on
get off
step off

verb+

plane

go by
go on
take
travel by
run for
catch
get
miss
board
get on/onto

verb+

bus

adjective+

travel

air
bus
car
coach
rail
sea
train
foreign
international
overseas
world
long-distance
business
leisure
cheap
risk

travel+noun

travel

agency
business
company
firm
industry
arrangements
plans
allowance
costs
expenses
insurance

be able/unable to
be free to
want to, wish to
be forced to
have to

verb+

travel

long
short
bus
car
railway
train
comfortable
easy
pleasant
safe
arduous
hard
tiring
dangerous
cross-country
epic

adjective+

journey

adjective+

trip

extended
long
quick
overnight
weekend
annual
forthcoming
fantastic
great
memorable
round
foreign
overseas
round-the-world
European
shopping
sightseeing

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